



As Mayor, and on behalf of the Dubuque City Council and City staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the City of Dubuque! We are excited you have come to experience our “Masterpiece on the Mississippi” for yourself. As the oldest city in Iowa, Dubuque is rich in history and built for an exciting future. Stroll through our city and you will find impressive historic architecture, a re-energized downtown, a riverfront that showcases the majesty of the Mississippi River and beautiful landscapes with breathtaking views. Our city offers something for everyone, from excellent accommodations and conference space to award-winning restaurants, nationally acclaimed museums, charming shops, and picturesque parks and trails. Thank you for choosing to gather in Dubuque and enjoy your stay with us!

Mayor Brad Cavanagh

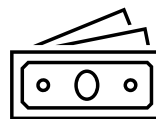


Come Back and Visit Dubuque Again

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Silent Auction



Bidding begins at 8:00 AM and closes at 2:45 PM

Items will begin to be on display in the Convention Room at the Holiday Inn during the registration on Friday night June 9 from 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm. They will continue to be on display on Saturday. There will be a brief description and bid sheet. There will be time to browse (and bid) before the meeting and during breaks. Final call for bids will be announced at 2:30 with the auction closing at 2:45pm. The winning bids will be announced soon after. The winners may pay by check, cash, or credit card.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA STATE CONVENTION

June 9 & 10, 2023 Holiday Inn Downtown, Dubuque, Iowa

PROGRAM

Friday, June 9

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Registration, Exhibits Open and Hospitality Suite available

7:30 pm

Presentation: Abolishing the Electoral College – Tamara Prenosil

Saturday June 10

8:00 am

Registration, Exhibits Open

9:00

Presentation of Flags - Girl Scouts

9:10

Welcome: Dubuque President - Tam Prenosil

Welcome: Dubuque Mayor - Brad Cavanaugh

9:20

Promotion of Silent Auction and Dubuque - Mary Rae Bragg

9:30

Call to Order: LWVIA President - Terese Grant

Introduction of Officers, Directors, past presidents, special guests

Credentials Report

Adoption of agenda

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Appointment of Convention minutes auditors

Adoption of Convention Rules

Roll Call of Leagues: Chapter Presidents, Upper Mississippi River Region

Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) and Mississippi River Network (MRN)

Legislative Report: LWVIA lobbyist - Amy Campbell

10:15

LWVIA State Study on Criminal Justice: Co-Chairs Jean Dell & Bonnie Pitz

Bringing Economic Justice to the Justice System: Karen Person & Lettie Prell

Johnson County Procurement Study: Kelcey Patrick-Ferree

Geographic Information System Study: Dhuha Tawil

11:00

Break

11:15

**Keynote: 20th President of the League of Women Voters of the United States
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Educational
Fund - Deborah Turner, MD, JD**

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch featuring round table conversations

1:00

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Committee: Myrna Loehrlein

Better Ballot Iowa - Rank Choice Voting: Kehry Lane

1:45

State of the League: Terese Grant and Presentation of awards - Carrie Chapman

Catt Award - Carolyn Goodwin

2:15

Minutes of 2021 Convention and 2022 Council (in convention booklet)

Financial Report and Proposed Budget (in convention booklet) - Holly Oppelt

2:30

10-minute break to place final bids on Silent Auction items

2:45

Report of Nominating Committee Election of Officers and Directors,

Directions to the Board (please submit in writing to Secretary Polly Horton)

Invitation for bids to host the 2024 Council and 2025 convention

3:00

Results of the Auctions and directions for payment and pick up of items

3:15

Adjournment



Deborah Turner, MD, JD, serves as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She was elected board president at the 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters in June of 2022 and will serve in this position until June 2024.

Dr. Turner joined the Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010 and became president in 2011 when the League was at risk of disbanding. She served in that role until 2015 helping revitalize membership and focus the board leadership. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has provided leadership to strengthen relationships between local leagues and

the state Board.

Turner was elected to the League's national board of directors in 2016 where she served on the Finance committee, Governance Committee, and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. As chair of the DEI Committee, Deborah and her colleagues focused on organizational culture changes to the League's mission work, emphasizing not only racial equity but also intergenerational dynamics, socioeconomic differences, gender identity, and interpersonal engagement.

Dr. Turner received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from the University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. She completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston Texas. She practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, enhancing university programs at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching residents and students. She also served the private sector bringing her specialty to Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City, IA, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. In July 2015 she left active practice to become Vice President of International Programs Medical Programs of The Outreach Program. She participated in twelve medical missions to Tanzania since 2011 and worked with Singida's Medical Center, Outreach's Children's Feeding Centers, and Rotary International. She received her JD from Drake University in 2007. She has served as Associate Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States since 2016.

Turner was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Gertrude Rush Award from the National Bar Association in 2015. She was awarded the Louise Noun Visionary Women of the year award from Young Women's Resource Center Des Moines in 2018. Her most treasured award is a certificate from the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care. In 2022, Fortune Magazine named her a "Marquis Who's Who" top professional for her work with LWV.

Dr. Turner has recently moved back to Iowa and has two grown children – a son and a niece.



President's Reflections

In looking back on this past year, it is easy to think of all the challenges the League has faced in our efforts to defend democracy in the state of Iowa. And yet, the League and its members have come together to challenge the threats that we have faced to our freedoms as individuals and institutions. The League will continue these efforts as we use our power to educate our voters and to advocate and to defend our democracy.

The LWVUS held its Convention in June of 2022. Dr. Deborah Turner, our National President, gave her opening address to the Convention in Denver, Colorado on June 24. This was the same day that the Roe v Wade decision was announced. Dr. Turner used this opportunity to declare that the League of Women Voters would work to overcome the threat to women's freedom to choose and to defend our civil liberties. A few weeks later, many of us joined protesters in Des Moines at a rally to express our support of Reproductive Rights for all. This is an issue that is ongoing and remains a focus for the Leagues here in Iowa.

Last fall, the League of Women Voters of Iowa joined the coalition, Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws. The purpose of this effort was to educate voters in Iowa about the Public Measure 1 that would appear on the ballot in November. This constitutional amendment would allow "strict scrutiny" to any challenges for common sense gun laws in the future. Local Leagues joined this effort, and it was a great disappointment when the amendment passed and is now part of the Iowa Constitution.

In November, the League held a Mini Issues Briefing focused on Public Education in Iowa. Our Lobbyist, Amy Campbell, invited Melissa Peterson and Margaret Buckton to share their expertise on the current state of public education in Iowa which helped to educate our members in order to advocate during the Legislative Session. In February, there was another Mini Issues Briefing to educate our members on the history and importance of Reproductive Rights. This panel discussion was moderated by Dianne Bystrom and included panelists, Dr. Deborah Turner, Dr. Amy Bingaman, Professor Sally Frank, Mazie Stilwell, and Pete McRoberts. This was an excellent session that provided all attendees a better understanding of this issue.

The 2023 Legislative Session began in January and bills were quickly introduced to take money away from public schools and give vouchers to individual students to use for tuition at private schools. In spite of an enormous effort by League members, organizations, and thousands of Iowans who advocated against this bill, it was quickly passed and signed into law. Bills targeting public schools continued throughout this Legislative Session that impose new restrictions on public schools, librarians, and curriculum instruction on gender identity. The Legislators passed several bills targeting LGBTQ individuals as well as prohibiting medical care for trans individuals under 18 years of age. The League opposed all of these bills which will do great harm to our schools and especially to individuals.

On April 13, the League hosted a Defending Democracy Award Dinner at the Jasper Winery in Des Moines. This event was held to present a Defending Democracy Award to the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and Randy Evans its Executive Director. Our guest speaker was Kathie Obadovich, editor of the Capital Dispatch. The

event was well attended and offered the League an opportunity to honor an organization that exemplifies one of our mission statements and also to raise money for our organization.

Looking forward, we know that changes are coming at the National LWV with the Transformation Journey that will affect all of us. Dr. Deborah Turner will be sharing more information about these changes during our 2023 Convention in Dubuque. It is hoped that our members will be open to the changes that will help us grow the League of Women Voters into the future. We are seeing interest in the League across the state of Iowa with the establishment of the Northwest LWV in Mason City over a year ago and now the newest addition of the Southeast LWV in Burlington/Fort Madison. Our local Leagues throughout the state of Iowa continue to be the champions in their local communities to register and educate voters during the year. We can be proud of the work we all do as we live up to our mission of “Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”.

Terese Grant



This is a picture taken in November 1905 of the approximately 60 attendees, all women, of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention held in Panora, Iowa.

Source: The State Historical Society of Iowa



Carolyn Goodwin joined the League of Women Voters of Sioux City in the early 1980's.

Through the years, she has been committed to the mission of the League. She has

worked on various studies on the local, state and national level, including the Health

Care and Education Studies. She has served in every LWVSC capacity as an officer or

Board member except Treasurer. She was instrumental in LWVSC efforts to start the

recycling program in Sioux City. She served on the LWVSC Committee working to have

"Women" included in the Iowa Constitutional amendment stating "All Women and Men

are Created Equal". She worked on the LWVSC "Educational Local Option Sales Tax"

that was ultimately adopted statewide. Two of her current passions are working with the Sioux City Mayor's Youth Commission and the Naturalization Program. Carolyn has also mastered giving presentations as Carrie Chapman Catt to many organizations in the Siouxland area, making her come alive for her audiences in both dress and words.



Carrie Chapman Catt Hall Iowa State University



Plaza of Bricks Iowa State University

Principles of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.



"To the wrongs that need resistance,
To the right that needs assistance,
To the future in the distance,
Give yourselves." ~ Carrie Chapman Catt

"Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government." ~ Carrie Chapman Catt

"If we learn from the experience, there is no failure, only delayed victory." Carrie Chapman Catt

LVIA Board of Directors June 2023

President: Terese Grant, Grinnell

Vice President: Nancy Halvorson, Ames & Story County

Treasurer: Shannon Patrick, Johnson County

Secretary: Polly Horton, Johnson County

Past President: Mary Rae Bragg, Dubuque

Director: Teresa Bomhoff, Metro Des Moines

Director: Linda Hagedorn, Ames & Story County

Director: Dr. Amy DeGroot-Hammer, Sioux City

Director: Jean McMenimen, Linn County

Director: Holly Oppelt, Muscatine

Director: Bonnie Pitz, Jasper County

Director: Jennifer Ramaecker, North Iowa

Director: Sue Wilson, Dubuque



VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Iowa should adopt automatic voter registration and pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served.



TRANSPARENCY

Demand government accountability and transparency by requiring all amendments and bills discussed in committee to be available to the public prior to a vote. Encourage direct citizen participation by continuing virtual committee and subcommittee meetings.



EDUCATION

Keep public money in public schools, fully fund public education, and continue to expand access to affordable childcare.



2023 State Public Policy Priorities



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services, make contraception available without prescription, and ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, support its victims, and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect human trafficking survivors from criminal prosecution.



ENVIRONMENT

Increase funding for environment and water quality initiatives, including REAP, and develop state climate change strategies.

2023 – 25 SLATE FOR NOMINATION
ELECTION June 10th, DUBUQUE CONVENTION

Co-Presidents Holly Oppelt - Muscatine
Terese Grant - Grinnell

Secretary Jessica Tierney- North Iowa

Elected Director Jennifer Ramaeker – North Iowa
Amy DeGroot-Hammer – Sioux City
Polly Horton – Johnson County

Appointed Directors

Second Term Sue Wilson – Dubuque
Teresa Bomhoff – Greater Des Moines

New To Board Maureen White – Black Hawk-Bremer
Peg Lazio - Ottumwa

CONTINUING TERMS Expire 2024

Vice President Nancy Halvorson – Ames-Story County

Treasurer Shannon Patrick – Johnson County

Elected Directors Jean McMenimen – Linn County
Linda Serra-Hagedorn – Ames-Story County

We still have a few vacancies for Directors – that will be appointed. Those appointed do not necessarily have to be on the published slate.

Respectfully submitted By Nominations Chair: Nancy Halvorson and Committee Team of Jean McMenimen and Sue Johannsen.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

The League believes accurate voting information should be available to all eligible voters. VOTE411 provides important information to register voters online, based on their home address, obtain ballot and candidate information, districts, races, and voting locations. To accurately identify locations and avoid mapping distortion the League's VOTE411 mapping system should be updated using GIS, Geographic Information System, a spatial system that is used to create, manage, analyze and map data and provide reliable mapping to offer voters accurate information. The Google mapping system currently used alters important locations and information. Local 911 Emergency personnel seek a similar localized system to accurately map addresses. Combining efforts may expedite a study process.

*Dhuha Tawil, chair
LWVJC VOTE411.org*

Government Procurement Study

The League believes that all governments and public entities within Johnson County should adopt and follow sound fiscal policies including procurement functions. Procurement should be transparent and accountable and identify a specific dollar limit that requires consistent bidding practices of purchases for public entities. The practices of four local governments were reviewed and staff interviewed for the communities of Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin and Johnson County. Purchasing practices and procedures for each entity were investigated and reviewed for adherence and compared to best practices and state law. The League recommends that all governments and public entities review procurement practices to determine transparency and accountability to achieve and ensure a sound fiscal policy is followed. To address accountability, the League supports and recommends undertaking a comprehensive review. The aim of such efforts would ensure transparency and provide residents the confidence that fairness is achieved.

*Kelcey Patrick-Ferree, chair
Purchasing Practices Study*

**** These Program Planning proposals were presented at the LWVJC annual membership and business meeting on June 9, 2022. The membership voted to advance the projects to the biennial LWVIA Convention, June 9-10, Dubuque, IA.**

Bringing Economic Justice to the Justice System 2022-2024

Forward and Acknowledgements from the Co-Chairs

Our introduction to the economic disparities in the Iowa criminal justice system evolved from a presentation to the LWVIA Criminal & Juvenile Justice Committee by Alex Kornya, Litigation Director & General Counsel, Iowa Legal Aid, in 2021. Legal Aid has a chart showing the costs borne by poor defendants and compares them to the costs for a citizen similarly charged but able to pay the cost of defense and bail; the disparity was eye-opening! Our democracy cannot flourish when our poorest citizens are plunged further into poverty by decisions within the Justice system. Fortunately, when League members observe and identify disparities, we can move to correct them.

Our study committee consisted of Bonnie Pitz, Jean Dell, Mary Richards, Allen Hays, E.J. Gallagher, John Klaus, Lettie Prell, Martha Hurst and Karen Person. The committee members were invaluable in shaping our positions through too many zoom meetings to count. The committee believes LWVIA can, through this study, educate our members and our local communities about the inequities in the justice system that have long term negative impacts on the indigent citizens of our state.

The committee researched articles, reports, and books, and conducted interviews with individuals who are part of the justice system. We have been privileged to work with Karen Person, Co-Chair of the 2005 State Study on Sentencing and Corrections; Lettie Prell, a retired researcher with the Department of Corrections; and Mary Richards, retired Story County Attorney, all of which had special assets to assist with the study. Additionally, we want to thank Alex Kornya for providing much of the Iowa data gathered for this study. We would like to thank Katherine N. Flickinger, an Ames lawyer, who gave us valuable insights into the realities of the justice system for poor Iowans. Additionally, an interview with Rita Bettis Austen, Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, was constructive to the language used in writing positions. Thank you to all who helped!

From Bonnie Pitz and Jean Dell, LWVIA Study Co-Chairs

To see the complete study and pending position ... go to lwvia.org. Click on menu, then Publications, then LWVIA positions. Click on Study and Pending Positions

Parliamentary Procedures

Tips on some basic rules of parliamentary procedure: Consult the Parliamentarian with special problems or questions.

Motions

All business at the convention is accomplished by making, debating, and acting upon motions. Once a topic has been introduced by a main motion, seconded, and stated by the chair, it is normally before the assembly for action.

While a main motion is pending on the floor, several subsidiary and incidental motions can be made which must be decided before the main motion is acted upon. This means that each succeeding motion can be made (if in order) while prior ones are pending. A few such motions are discussed below.

To Amend (Debatable, Majority Vote)

A motion can be amended by insertion or adding, by striking out, or by striking out and inserting. Amendments must be germane, that is related to the subject of the motion. A motion can be amended several times but each amendment is considered individually and disposed of before proceeding to the next. An amendment can itself be amended once. Substantial changes in wording should be done through amendment substitution. Amendments of any length should be in writing.

Once all amendments have been acted upon, a vote on “the motion as amended” is taken. Amendments to program items can’t enlarge the scope of the item.

To Refer (Debatable, Majority Vote)

This motion, not often used at League conventions because of time constraints, is appropriate if more information or extensive reworking is necessary and could best be accomplished by a few delegates.

To Postpone Definitely (Debatable, Majority Vote)

This motion can be used to delay action to a more opportune time when new information is available or other decisions have been made. The motion should include the place on the agenda when the action is to be resumed.

To Limit or Extend Debate (Not Debatable, Two-Thirds Vote)

Use this motion when debate needs to be limited as to time, number who wish to be heard, or extended in time, etc.

To Close Debate (Not Debatable, Two-Thirds Vote)

When debate does not seem to be adding anything not already said, debate may be closed by “moving the previous question.” If several motions are pending (such as amendments), a motion to close debate on “just the immediately pending question” or “all pending questions” may be made. If the motion carries, a vote is taken immediately on the question under consideration.

To Lay on the Table (Not Debatable, Majority Vote)

This motion delays consideration of a matter because something else of an urgent nature interrupts. Although not debatable, a brief explanation of reasons may be given before making the motion. A motion laid on the table comes back to the convention for action by use of the motion “to take from the table.”

To Reconsider a Vote (Debatable, Majority Vote)

This motion can be made only by one who voted on the prevailing side. This motion is usually debatable and requires a majority vote. If the motion to reconsider is adopted, the original motion is again before the convention as though a decision had not been reached. A vote can only be reconsidered once.

Division of the Assembly

This requires a standing vote if the voice vote seems inconclusive. A single delegate “calls for a division” and does not need to use a microphone but must be heard.

Miscellaneous Motions

These motions have no rank and are usually “incidental” to the business pending or to the operation of the convention as a whole. Some may interrupt other business. There is no debate or vote and they are usually ruled upon by the chair. Delegates should be cautious not to abuse use of these motions.

Question of Privilege: This relates to the comfort of the delegates or operation of the assembly.

Parliamentary Inquiry: This motion is used to ask for direction or procedure to accomplish a parliamentary maneuver.

Point of Information: This motion is used to seek urgent information necessary before decisions can be made.

The Role of the State Board at Convention

State Board Members are delegates to the Convention, uncommitted but informed and responsive to the debate and discussion. They cast their votes as individuals.

Number of Convention Delegates to the League of Women Voters of Iowa Convention 2023

Ames/Story County	15	Jasper County	1	Ottumwa	1
Blackhawk/Bremer	5	Johnson County	14	Sioux City	5
Des Moines Metro	5	Linn County	9	Southeast	0
Dubuque County	5	Muscatine County	4	(New Chapter)	
Grinnell	4	North Iowa	4		

Total 72 for a full delegation

CONVENTION RULES

A motion to adopt these rules will be made at the opening session. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote. The rules as below, or amended, require a majority vote for adoption. To suspend at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.

SEATING Admission to the convention shall be limited to persons displaying official badges. Voting members, observers and visitors shall sit in their designated areas.

OBSERVERS AND VISITORS Observers and visitors may attend all convention meetings but may not take part in the formal business sessions.

ADDRESSING THE CONVENTION All speakers shall use a microphone and state their name and League.

MOTIONS Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing on the forms available from the ushers. Three copies should be prepared and signed by the mover. One should be sent at once to the secretary, one to the overhead operator, and one retained by the mover.

DEBATE Delegates shall address the chair from a floor microphone and clearly state their name and League. Debate will be limited to three minutes for each speaker unless the time is extended by a two-thirds vote. Debate will alternate between pro and con speakers. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity.

Debate may be closed by “moving the previous question” or “moving to close debate.”

The motion, which must be seconded, is not debatable and will be put to an immediate vote.

A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt this motion. If adopted, the debate is immediately closed and the motion under debate is voted upon.

VOTING Only delegates may vote. When a vote is in process, the doors to the convention shall be closed and no one may enter or leave. The presiding officer will alert delegates of upcoming voting and request their presence in the hall.

If the results of a voice vote are not clear, a standing vote will be taken; if a standing vote is not clear, a card vote will be taken. Each delegate will be supplied with a colored voting card. Ushers will collect and count the card votes.

ADOPTION-OF-PROGRAM The state board will present the proposed program, which will not include any not recommended items. These items, however, are listed in the program portion of this booklet. Delegates wishing to place any or all of the “not recommended” items on the agenda may do so when the president calls for approval of the agenda. At that time a motion to amend the agenda to include would be in order. Such an amendment will take a simple majority vote.

Not recommended items added to the agenda will be debated in the order in which they were voted consideration, and after recommended items.

The motion to adopt the recommended program will be one main motion, followed by amendments by deleting, adding, clarifying, etc. All motions dealing with amendments to the recommended program motion as well as the main motion itself will require a three-fifths vote.

RESOLUTIONS There shall be no resolutions, except those of a courtesy nature, presented to or adopted by the Convention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS All announcements shall be made by the secretary. Anyone wishing to have an announcement made from the platform shall send a signed copy of the announcement in writing to the secretary.

SMOKING There shall be no smoking during business sessions.

MINUTES The minutes of the LWVIA Convention shall be approved by the board of directors following recommendation of the auditors appointed to review and correct the minutes.

NOTE: Convention rules are based on LWVIA by-laws and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.



In March 1869 Mary Newbury Adams (1837-1901) of Dubuque, was given the assignment for the local paper to cover the speeches by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Martha Brinkeroff in nearby Galena. She said, "If I had not been reporting I would have taken the stage and given some arguments against woman's suffrage –but I must acknowledge my pail full of arguments is getting emptied and the pail for is getting filled up." That day turned her life around to be the most noted woman in the country to advocate for women's clubs, the one place where women "could hear the own voices" and learn. She and her husband Judge Adams hosted and coordinated the lecture tours of Emerson, Bronson Alcott, Horace Mann, and Horace Greeley in Dubuque. She spoke for women's causes at the Chicago World's Fair, the annual women's congresses often with Julia Ward Howe, and at Elizabeth Cady Stanton's eightieth birthday party in New York City.

League of Women Voters of Iowa

Virtual State Convention

The Time to Grow Our Future is Now!

June 12, 2021

LWVIA President Terese Grant called the convention to order at 9:06 am following the explanation of Convention procedures by LWVIA Communications Coordinator Melissa Gesling.

President Grant introduced the LWVIA Board of Directors and Officers, and LWVIA past presidents in attendance: Jean Lloyd Jones, Jan Beran, Myrna Loehrlein, Bonnie Pitz, Deb Turner, and Mary Rae Bragg.

Bonnie Pitz announced the Credentials: 97 registered, 67 delegate members, 2 alternates, and 22 guests attending, with representation of all 11 local Leagues.

The motion to adopt the Agenda was made by Teel Thebeau (LWV Linn County), seconded by Jean McMenemy (LWV Linn County). Linda Hagedorn was appointed Parliamentarian. Cherie Dargan (LWV Black Hawk Bremer) and Dagna Simmons (LWVSC) were appointed as Convention Auditors. The usual parliamentary steps were followed.

By-Laws changes

Nancy Porter, LWVIA Board of Directors

Proposed changes in the By-Laws were as follows:

- Adoption of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement from LWVUS Policy
- Change appointed Board of Directors from 4 to 6 to have representation of each Local League on the LWVIA State Board
- The LWVIA Board also acts as the LWVIA Education Fund Board
- Meetings may be held electronically for Council and Convention

Nancy Porter (LWVJC) moved to accept the changes to the By-Laws and Karen Kendrowski (LWV Story County) seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous poll vote.

Roll call of local Leagues

Local League presidents answering roll call reported on their local activities. The League's mission of study, educate, and advocate were well represented in the activities reported.

Linda Hagedorn, LWV Ames-Story County

Terese Bomhoff, LWV Metro Des Moines

Cherie Dargan, LWV Black Hawk-Bremer Counties

Jean McMenemy, LWV Linn County

Tam Prenosil, LWV Dubuque

Holly Oppelt, LWV Muscatine

Liz Hansen, LWV Grinnell

Jean Dell, LWV Ottumwa

Bonnie Pitz, Jasper County

Dagna Simmons, LWV Sioux City

Paula Vaughan, LWV Johnson County

“And they persisted ...A Century of Impact” drawing

Linda Meloy held 2 raffles during the meeting, drawing names of 5 attendees each time. The lucky attendees each received a copy of the book. The 10 recipients were Lori Berning, Deidre DeJear, Bea Hicks, Sara Stealy, Pam Willard, Jean Dell, Linda Santi, Jeanne Bancroft, Teel Thebeau, and Shari Hawk.

Lobbyist Report

PowerPoint presentations may be found on our LWVIA website at <https://www.lwvia.org/meetingandconventiondocs>.

Amy Campbell, LWVIA Lobbyist, presented the 2021 Iowa Legislative Session Recap by grouping our Legislative Priorities into Wins and Losses.

Wins:

- Protect Iowa’s model redistricting process (Special Session in August 2021)
- Protect natural resources and environment
 - No changes to the Bottle Bill
 - REAP funded through FY2026
- Rethink approach to criminal justice and equal treatment
 - Stopped death penalty and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation
 - Bail forfeiture (added 60 days)

Losses

- Voting Rights (Election Integrity Bill)
- Rethink approach to criminal justice and equal treatment (Back the Blue)
- Improve Health and Safety of Iowans
 - Guns
 - No right to abortion
 - Failed enact contraceptive coverage
- Build Iowa’s Workforce
 - Charter Schools
 - Loss of Home Rule

Amy recommended LWVIA focus on 4 priorities in 2022:

1. Mental Health/DS Regions – review efficiency of each region
2. Bottle Bill
3. Human Services – Agency reorganization
4. Workforce/ Broadband

Looking ahead, continue using the LWVIA Task Forces, hold a virtual Issues Briefing in Fall 2021, prepare for new Districts regarding Elections, and be vigilant on elected officials’ Accountability and Transparency.

Committee Reports – Printed in Convention Program Booklet; see website

<https://www.lwvia.org/meetingandconventiondocs>

Membership Leadership Development

Mary Ann Nelson, Chair, described the evolution of MLD into a collaboration of Iowa local Leagues via a monthly Zoom meeting. She emphasized the importance of communication so “we all speak the same language”. Mary Ann is retiring from the Board and turning the Chair over to Nancy Porter for 2021-22.

Communication Coordinator Report

Melissa Gesling

- Social Media: Face Book, Twitter, Instagram, You Tube
- Blast Emails: League News, Action Alerts
- The Voter newsletter: transitioning to publicizing every other month (August, October, December, February, April)
- Send correspondence to lwviowa@gmail.com; due date is 15th of month prior to publication
-

National History Day Essay Contest

Bonnie Pitz

As part of the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee, we wanted to work with National History Day to recognize two students for their work in research and writing. Last year because of glitches with Covid we were not able to do that so this year we are recognizing two students who competed in National History Day 2021. The two students selected are Nina Dalley at the junior level who wrote an essay called *Women’s Suffrage the Fight for Equality*. Nina is from Gowrie, Iowa. At the senior level it was Anita Dinakar from Grimes, Iowa who put together a website called *Hazel Scott—Taking a Swing at Segregation*.

Both young women received a walnut plaque with **Hard Won -Not Done, The 19th Amendment-Granted Women the Right to Vote**. They also each received a check for \$500. The young women were very pleased with this recognition. Thousands of students across Iowa participate in local and district competition for National History Day and this year 362 were selected for the State competition. National History Day has been coordinated by the State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Keynote Speakers

PowerPoint presentations may be found on our LWVIA website at <https://www.lwvia.org/meetingandconventiondocs>.

Melissa Currence, LWVUS Board Liaison for Iowa, presented a PowerPoint on **How to get involved in League outside of Iowa**. It covered topics of Fundraising and Leadership.

Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President, gave an inspirational talk entitled: “**League of Women Voters: This is Our Moment**”. Her premise was that LWVUS is doing what we were founded to do. VOTE411 statistics were shared. All the election access fought for in the 2020 election during the COVID pandemic must be maintained. Currently there are 60 state and federal Election related lawsuits.

Terese Grant, LWVIA President, spoke on the **State of the Iowa League**. The LWVIA Board of Directors now has representation from every local League – we are an **inclusive** Board. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion issues have become politicized. Iowa faces a challenging 2022 Legislature regarding free and fair elections. We are not alone. These challenges are nationwide.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

The Carrie Chapman Catt Award was presented to Linda Schreiber, LWV Johnson County. The Carrie Chapman Catt Award is a tribute to the recipient's years of excellence in contributing to their community and to League and its governing principles. Most recently, Linda led the 2021 Environmental Task Force that focused on the Bottle Bill.

Special Presentation

Linda Meloy was presented a Special Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution by researching, writing, and publishing the book "And they persisted.... A Century of Impact". This Award is recognition for an action or work by a League member that is out of the norm.

Finance Report

Linda Meloy, LWVIA Treasurer, presented a report on LWVIA financial status, including the Education Fund and the Heartland investment Account. The account passed the audit in May 2021.

Linda referred the delegates to the proposed 2021-22 Budget printed on pages 19-20-21 of the Convention booklet. She made motion to accept the budget and Miriam Timmer-Hackert (LWVJC) seconded. Parliamentarian L. Hagedorn restated that the motion is approval of the 2021-22 Budget. Motion passed on unanimous vote of delegates present. (56/74 voted)

Nominating Committee Report

Bonnie Pitz presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers and directors for 2021-2023. They are President, Terese Grant, Secretary, Polly Horton, Directors, Teresa Bomhoff, Mary Stewart, Amy DeGroot-Hammer. Parliamentarian Linda Hagedorn stated the motion is to accept the slate of officers. Elinor Levin (LWVJC) moved, and Jean McMenimen (LWVLinn) seconded the motion. Motion passed on unanimous vote of delegates present (59/74).

Continuing officers and directors include Vice President Nancy Halvorson (2020-2022), Treasurer Linda Meloy (2020-2022), and Directors Jean McMenimen (2020-2022), and Nancy Porter (2020-2022).

LWVIA Council 2022 will be hosted by Black Hawk Bremer League.

LWVIA Convention 2023 will be hosted by Dubuque League.

Directions to the Board

Adjournment

On motion by Teel Thebeau, seconded by Jacque McCoy, and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 12.24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Horton

LWVIA Secretary

June 20, 2021

LWVIA 2022 Council Minutes

Saturday, June 4, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Community Foundation of NE IOWA

3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA

9:00 a.m. Registration, meet and greet

9:30 a.m. Welcome by President Terese Grant

9:35 a.m. Remarks from LWVIA President, Dr. Deborah Turner

- LWVUS Program for next biennium will continue to be “Making Democracy Work”
- Convention will present League Structure Transformation

9:53 a.m. Recognition of our newest Local: LWV of Northern Iowa

- Comments from Jessica Tierney, Board Member of LWVNI
- LWVNI has 27 members

9:57 a.m. Introductions of Local League attendees who shared highlights of their FY21

10:15 a.m. Presentation by Janet Carl, Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws

- Vote “No “on Reckless Gun Amendment on November 8th
- Iowa legislation has weakened gun safety laws
- 2017 Stand Your Ground
- 2020 Preemptive Law (local control)
- 2021. Removed Iowa’s permit requirement
- Amendment proposed is not the Federal 2nd Amendment

10:52 a.m. Geographic Information System (GIS) presented by Dhuha Tawil, LWVJC

- Application to VOTE411
- Proposed Study to be presented to LWVJC Annual Meeting 6/9/22

11:35 a.m. Myrna Loehrlein presented “*Bringing Economic Justice to the Justice System*”

Bonnie Pitz presented background for a Proposal for Study on Financing of Justice System in Iowa by the CJJC Committee

B.Pitz made the motion that the proposal for the Study on Financing of Justice System in Iowa be approved, and M. Loehrlein seconded. T. Grant called for the vote, and the motion passed on unanimous vote by delegates.

11:37 a.m. Tamara Prenosil gave an update on UMRR-ILO new efforts and activities

- Water quality
- Soil health
- Climate change
- How to be more a active role on issues (LWVUMRR.blog)

Nancy Porter reported on Mississippi River Network (MRN) Field Trip

- Friday, June 10, 2022. 10:30 a.m. at the National Mississippi River Museum
- Tour, lunch, and discussion. (free)

11:42 a.m. President's Report – T. Grant

- Challenges are political and social divisions
- LWVIA must expand, adapt, and change
- Focus on smaller number of Issues
- Mission remains to empower voters, defend democracy

12:45 p.m. Dr. Chris Larimer, UNI Professor of Political Science spoke on his research "How peer pressure can be used to mobilize voters".

1:37 p.m. 2022-23 Proposed Budget presented by Treasurer Linda Meloy.

P. Horton moved that the proposed PMP increases (\$5.00 for primary membership, \$2.50 increase for additional in household, and \$2.50 increase for student membership) be approved to begin July 1, 2023. B. Pitz 2nd, and the motion carried with 22 in favor and 2 opposed.

L. Meloy made the motion to approve the Proposed Budget, Marcia Buttedge 2nd, and the motion carried on unanimous vote.

2:13 p.m. Nominating Chairperson Mary Rae Bragg presented the slate for 2022-2024:

Nominees for Board Positions Linda Hagedorn Director 2022-24

Shannon Patrick Treasurer 2022-24

Nominees for Re-election

Nancy Halvorson Vice President 2022-24

Jean McMenimen Director

M. Bragg made the motion to support the slate of Officers, D. Kelley 2nd and the motion passed on unanimous vote.

T. Grant then recognized and thanked Linda Meloy and Nancy Porter who are concluding their terms on the Board.

2:16 p.m. T. Grant notified the Delegates that she will send the 2 Proposals for Concurrence to be voted on at the 2022 LWVUS Convention in Denver by email, since the large screen projection was not available. They are Election Security proposal and Digital Democracy Study.

2:42 p.m. Tam Prenosil announced the LWVIA 2023 Convention site will be in Dubuque, June 9-10, 2023.

2:45 p.m. Directions to the Board

- Orientation/ Leadership Training for local Board Officers should be held in Fall 2022
- Delegates to LWVUS Convention 2022 will be asked to vote on new or revised By-Laws. Delegates need to consider what is being voted on and what power it includes for whom.
- 2:50 p.m. **Louise O'Donnell moved to adjourn. Linda Meloy 2nd and all voted in favor.**

Polly Horton, Secretary

League of Women Voters of Iowa	
2023-2024 Budget	
Revenue	
Local League PMP	
Single Member Dues @ \$30	\$20,370.00
Household Member Dues	\$1,665.00
Student Dues @ \$15	\$315.00
Subtotal	\$22,350.00
Development	
Member Contributions	\$2,000.00
Non Member Contributions	\$3,000.00
T-Shirt Project Revenue	\$500.00
Birthday Facebook Project	\$2,000.00
Democracy Fundraiser	\$5,625.00
Subtotal	\$13,125.00
Total Revenues	\$35,475.00
Expenditures	
Operating Expenses	
Insurance/Bonding	\$1,300.00
Administrative Assistant	\$8,000.00
Accounting Fees	\$1,350.00
Technology	\$600.00
Zoom	\$150.00
Subtotal	\$11,400.00
Delegates, Worksops, Coalitions	
Nat'l Convention for President & VP	\$1,000.00

Other Meetings/Officer Training	\$750.00
Subtotal	\$1,750.00
Local League Services	
State Convention	\$500.00
Subtotal	\$500.00
PMP For Members At Large	
	\$80.00
Subtotal	\$80.00
Development	
Fundraiser Expenses	\$3,637.35
	\$3,637.35
Position Support	
Lobbyist	\$12,000.00
Voter Education	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$13,000.00
Miscellaneous	
Member Memorials	\$200.00
Other Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Subtotal	\$300.00
Total Expenses	\$30,667.35
Total Revenues	\$35,475.00
Total Expenses	\$30,667.35

Total Gain or Loss	\$4,807.65
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Budget Committee Report

To: Delegates to 2023 LWVIA Convention

From: Holly Oppelt, Chair, LWVIA Budget Committee

First I'd like to thank the other members of this year's Budget Committee: Polly Horton and Treasurer Shannon Patrick serving as ex officio member of the committee. Shannon provided invaluable experience and advice on the budget process.

Attached you will find the proposed 2023-2024 budget for the League. This year you will not see as many expense categories as in the past. We combined some categories that had only small allocations and removed others that had not been used in recent years. Fundraising and donations will be a revenue area on which we will concentrate. The Defending Democracy event will return next year plus we will research LWVUS for future grants.

Operating expenses plus our Lobbyist are rather set expenses reflecting approximately 76% of our budget. To make any significant reduction in these expenses would require a drastic reduction in our educational services.

Membership is a very vital part of LWVIA. You will note that the figures used in this budget are based upon the 2022-2023 membership. That's why we will be encouraging League growth in the coming year.

League's Process for Doing a Study

The League's program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state, or local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws and includes the following steps:

Formal adoption (by members at an annual meeting or by state/national convention delegates) of an issue for study

- Member study and agreement on broad concepts
- Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors
- Action as directed by the board of directors
- Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position

Local Leagues may work simultaneously on local, state, national, and (if applicable) regional program issues, but action may be taken only in those areas where there is member understanding and agreement. Issues reflect community concerns and range from local park facilities to election reform, from childcare to nuclear waste disposal, from air pollution to international trade, from mental health to energy policy.

Studies and Program Adoption

League program arises from the suggestions of members. At every level of the League, the board of directors is responsible for reviewing and discussing these suggestions, formulating them in appropriate language, and recommending all or some of them for adoption according to procedures specified in the bylaws. A local League's "action" or advocacy program is determined by members at its annual meeting; state and national programs are voted upon by delegates at state and national League conventions. In the course of the program adoption discussion, members often give suggestions to the board on scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis and ways to handle the study and/or action phases.

Reaching Member Agreement

Before the League can take action, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of the policy issue. The nature of the issue will affect how it is studied and how positions are reached. The board usually selects the method to be used: consensus (where agreement is reached using League responses to specific questions) or concurrence (where agreement or a vote on a pre-stated position is required).

The technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement is consensus by group discussion. It is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings.

Regardless of the method used, it is essential that members have an opportunity to become informed before being asked to make decisions on the issue under consideration. It is through this process that League members become educated on a given issue, and this is what makes subsequent League action on that issue uniquely credible and respected. During the study phase, members have an opportunity to examine the facts and key pro/con points. They are encouraged to discuss the political realities of action and to contribute ideas for the board to consider when it formulates an action strategy after a position is reached. If the League has a position

on a given issue, action can be taken as appropriate. The issue does not need to be studied each time action is thought to be necessary.

Formulating League Positions

A League's position reflects membership understanding and agreement on a particular public policy issue. In formulating a position, either prior to seeking member agreement through concurrence or following member agreement through consensus, the board must keep in mind the importance of wording the position in terms broad enough to enable the League to initiate, support or oppose a variety of specific legislative and executive proposals over a period of time.

Determining whether consensus has been achieved and how it should be expressed is the responsibility of the board. Through an interpretive process, the board first evaluates the reports of member views and then determines the broad areas of agreement and disagreement that emerge.

Once a League board has finalized a position on an issue, it is announced to members and can be shared with the public. It becomes part of the League's position statements, and the board can begin taking action on it immediately. Like all statements of position, it must be readopted each year by League members at the annual meeting (or biennial convention) in order to remain on the program of issues for possible action.

A local League's views during a regional, state or national study do not constitute a final League position and should not be publicized, either to members or to the public. In this case, each local board's responsibility is to report its members' areas of agreement and its level of member participation to the regional, state or national board. In turn, the appropriate board analyzes the member agreement reports from local Leagues, develops a position statement that reflects member thinking and announces the position to members and the public. That position is then available immediately to be used as the basis for action.

Impact on Issues

The publication *Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions*, contains all LWVUS positions agreed to through study, consensus and concurrence. It provides invaluable information and history for Leagues wishing to take action. National positions can serve as the basis for action at the state and local levels, as well as nationally. You may wish to contact the LWVUS for assistance in applying national positions locally or in your state.

The League's Principles

In addition to positions on public policy issues, *Impact on Issues* lists the League's Principles. These are broad "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. They can serve as a basis for support for: responsible, responsive, efficient, representative government; protection of the right to vote of every citizen; support for free public education; and international cooperation, for example. However, since they are broadly worded, caution should be used in applying them to specific issues.

Key Points of the Study Process – Local Leagues and Members:

It is important to remember that the study process is a cooperative effort between the League board and the study committee. It is the board's responsibility to monitor the entire process to ensure that the membership is able to come to consensus in an unbiased and nonpartisan atmosphere.

League of Women Voters of Iowa Positions

Our program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state, or local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws and includes the following steps:

- Formal adoption (by members at an annual meeting or by state/national convention delegates) of an issue for study.
- Member study and agreement on broad concepts.
- Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors.
- Action as directed by the board of directors.
- Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position.

State Government Positions

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive to all citizens and that protects individual liberties established under the Constitution.

The Constitution (1971, 1981)

The Constitution of Iowa should guarantee protection of people in their rights, delineate the framework of state government, and provide for only major concerns of enduring importance. A good constitution should:

- Assure separation and balance among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, clarifying lines of authority and responsibility;
- Leave procedural and financial specifics to statutory law;
- Be stated in broad terms to provide for adaptation to changing conditions;
- Be consistent throughout;
- Avoid conflict with the federal constitution or laws;
- Be free of deadwood, reasonably concise, and easy to understand.

Constitutional Convention (1980)

If the General Assembly considers implementing legislation for a constitutional convention, the League of Women Voters of Iowa will support measures to:

- Provide adequate funds;
- Require delegates to be qualified voters elected on a nonpartisan basis from districts;
- Limit the length but not the scope of convention proceedings;
- Provide for a preparatory commission prior to convening;
- Locate the convention in the capital city;
- Oppose the placing of provisions for a constitutional study commission in the Constitution.

Equal Rights Amendment (1981)

Support of an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Iowa Constitution and a state code that is in compliance with the goals of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Apportionment (1956, 1963, 1979, 1981, 1991, 2001)

Support of:

- Redistricting of all state and local election districts based substantially on equal population;
- Reapportionment of the Iowa General Assembly every 10 years by a non-legislative authority; and
- Anti-gerrymandering provisions in reapportionment procedures.

State Budget Process (1993)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports the following policies related to the state budget process:

- Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) should be used in the budget process and in all state budget reports and revenue projections.
- A state general fund cash reserve should be implemented and maintained, except in extraordinary circumstances as provided by law.
- An economic emergency fund should be established and maintained.
- The Governor and the General Assembly should use the December 15 revenue estimates of the Revenue Estimating Conference in the budget process. If the estimates are later revised, action on the budget should reflect the lower of the two estimates.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes:

- All three branches of state government – executive, legislative, and judicial – should be required to engage in strategic planning.
- A system management review should be created for all programs and functions of state government.
- A system of review of tax sources should be created.
- Such systems should operate on a cycle to guarantee regular, periodic review, and criteria should be established for the evaluation process.

Iowa General Assembly (1995)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports the present structure of the Iowa General Assembly (a bicameral legislature of 150 members – a 50-member Senate and a 100-member House of Representatives – and annual sessions of 110 days in odd-numbered years and 100 days in even-numbered years).

- The League opposes term limits for State Representatives and State Senators.
- The League believes certain changes in legislative processes could improve the system and the end product.

Legislative Committees

- The number and function of the committees should be the same in both the House and Senate.
- Interim committees could be more effective if the legislature responded to the work of the committees, if more citizens and resource people were used, and if standing committees were used during the interim.
- Conference committees should be required to adhere to the rules of other committees.

Budgeting

- Biennial budgeting with annual review is preferable to annual budgeting. Biennial budgeting would encourage greater long-range planning, require more accurate financial forecasting, and provide greater stability in funding programs. Whether budgeting is done annually or biennially, the League believes that the budget making and budget review processes should be streamlined.
- The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports the current funnel system of moving legislation through the session.
- The League further believes that three groups have the greatest influence on legislation: lobbyists, political action committees, and the business community. Public interest groups, the Legislative Fiscal and Service Bureaus, and caucus staffs have a moderate impact on legislation, while individuals have the least influence.

Local Government Positions

Support for city and county home rule and for greater local flexibility and intergovernmental cooperation.

Structure, Function, and Finance (1965, 1971, 1977, 1979, 1982)

Action to support:

- Implement home rule for Iowa cities, counties, and joint city-county units of government (including local-option taxation authority);
- Minimize duplication of services;
- Increase area-wide and city-county planning;
- Strengthen inter-local cooperation;
- Increase flexibility of local units of government; and
- Defeat property tax limitation

Area Education Agency – AEA (1979, 1985)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes the state should provide equal opportunity for each child in Iowa to receive quality education. To this end, we support Area Education Agencies (AEAs) as service agencies to local school districts.

Action to support:

- Media and education services and programs as needed and requested, plus the required special education services;
- Assistance to local school districts by AEAs for talented and gifted programs, preferably through a weighted funding formula;
- Inservice programs and services by AEAs that do not duplicate programs and services already available through other school corporations;
- Funding of AEAs through a combination of property taxes, state aid and grants, with a higher proportion of the budget funded by state aid rather than property taxes;
- Selection of AEA board members at district conventions of local school boards; and
- No regulatory or taxing powers assigned to AEAs.
- If the legislature grants taxing authority to the AEAs, board members should be selected by district election, reside in the district represented, and be chosen by the electors of that district.

County Home Rule (1977, 1982)

Support of home rule for Iowa counties with constitutional and statutory measures providing for:

- Authorization for local governments to combine (county-county and city-county) with voter determination of the county seat;
- Provisions for optional county and city-county charters;
- Bonding authority;
- Local-option tax authority subject to reverse referendum; and
- Provision that the power of a city should prevail in the event of a conflict between a county and a city.

Implementing legislation should include:

- A variety of methods for creating joint governments;
- Referendum procedures for approving, amending, and dissolving joint local governments;
- A variety of methods for initiating a charter procedure;
- Proportional representation and specified minimum size for charter commissions;
- Referendum procedures for adopting, amending, and rescinding charters; and
- Periodic review.

Fiscal Policy Positions: Iowa Tax System (1973, 1974, 1975, 1983, 1988, 1990)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports an equitable and flexible system of taxation. A tax should be evaluated primarily on equity, taxpayers' ability to pay, and adequate yield. A tax should be evaluated secondarily on the size of the tax base, ease of payment and collection, ease of understanding for the taxpayer, flexibility, and a balance between stability and elasticity.

Income Tax

The League advocates a progressive income tax and believes that any increase in state tax revenue preferably should be through income tax, rather than sales or property tax.

Property Tax

The League believes local revenues should be less reliant on property tax and more reliant on state funds. Property tax should be decreased also by reduction in the number of local governmental units. Property tax relief should be granted to low-income elderly and other low-income owners and renters. Property tax exemptions should be removed from income-producing property of churches, profit-making nursing homes, veterans' organizations, fraternal organizations, and labor unions. Cities should be allowed to impose user fees or payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOTS) on tax-exempt properties for services rendered to those properties. Cities should be allowed to charge county, state, and federally owned properties for the city services provided to those properties.

Earmarking

When consistent with other League criteria, earmarking of funds is an acceptable fiscal policy.

Corporate Tax

The League urges a tax treatment for business that would provide equity of imposition and enforcement between in-state and out-of-state corporations. Changes to achieve equity should reinforce the economic stability of the state and provide a favorable climate for business.

Tax Incentives

The League supports tax incentives for efforts and programs to slow the growth in energy consumption, to encourage development of renewable energy resources, and to maximize energy conservation.

Fire and Medical Emergency Services (2015)

- Establish emergency medical services as an essential service, required to be provided statewide.
- Enhance the flexibility of local communities to organize the provision of emergency fire response and emergency medical services by:
 - Reinstating the opportunity to establish benefitted fire districts as was permissible under Iowa law until 1975.
 - Allowing the creation of joint fire and emergency medical service for benefitted districts.
 - Extending current language in the Code of Iowa to authorize counties to operate combined fire or fire and emergency medical districts under voluntary agreements with cities and townships in unincorporated areas of the county.
- Complete a comprehensive census of fire departments and their personnel throughout the state, including mapping of service areas and inventories of equipment.
- Provide stable funding streams for fire and emergency medical services adequate to meet minimally acceptable standards for training and equipment.
- The State of Iowa should work in cooperation with associations representing emergency medical providers and fire service personnel to identify and develop resources for local fire and emergency service providers to assist in the recruitment and retention efforts. These initiatives could include, but need not be limited to, web-based resources for recruitment efforts, information about best practices to recruit and retain volunteers, and a recognition program for employers who support fire and emergency medical personnel in their workplaces.
- The State of Iowa should consider developing incentives available to volunteer emergency services providers to encourage their retention in the volunteer services.
- The State should consider measures to reduce the financial burden on organizations providing fire and emergency medical services.
- The State of Iowa, cities, and counties should consider implementing alternative transportation arrangement for transport of individuals currently transported by emergency medical services providers who do not require ambulance transport.

Municipal Finance (1976)

- The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a wide range of local-option taxes as a means of broadening the sources of revenue available to Iowa cities including: retail sales tax (with the present legal exceptions), hotel/motel accommodations, food/beverage served at commercial establishments, and cigarettes.

- Local-option taxation should be subject to a reverse referendum by the voters.
- The League opposes any increase in the \$8.10/\$1,000 maximum city property tax levy. While local-option taxation may make reductions possible in local property taxes, the League opposes any legislative requirement that a specified portion of the funds raised by local-option must be used to reduce property taxes.
- The League supports an increase in the cities' share of the Road Use Tax Fund as well as legislative study of means to further reduce municipal dependence on the property tax.
- The League supports consideration of present inequities related to the taxation of business and industry, nonprofit organizations, and agricultural land within city limits; increasing and stabilizing the aid from the Municipal Assistance Fund; and increasing the proportion of liquor profits returnable to cities.

School Finance (1981, 1989)

The League believes the state should provide equal opportunity for each child in Iowa to receive a quality education regardless of the property wealth of the local school district. To this end, the League supports a state-school funding program that provides a minimum spending level for every child in Iowa funded by a combination of state aid and local property taxes.

The League believes the school-funding formula should be designed to generate adequate revenue and to preserve the overall fairness of the state's tax structure. The state should give substantial support to public schools with state aid but should not provide full funding.

The League supports:

- The funding of local school district budgets with a larger proportion of state aid and a smaller proportion of local property taxes;
- The use of various factors to calculate the budgets of local school districts; for instance, enrollment, average per-pupil costs, and unique needs or other special circumstances;
- The allocation of additional funds on a per-pupil basis to meet the needs of special education, gifted, and at-risk students;
- The option for local school districts to supplement their budgets within state-determined limits and to allocate funds in a locally-determined manner; and
- The use of fiscal incentives that encourage school district sharing of services to increase flexibility, educational opportunity, and overall economy.

The League opposes:

- Increased reliance on local property taxes to support the budgets of local school districts.

TIF – Tax Increment Financing (2017)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes efficient and economical government allows governing entities opportunities to utilize Tax Increment Financing tools for urban renewal and economic development. The League further believes TIF is a positive tool for cities and counties to address issues of urban renewal and economic development.

1. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes the Code of Iowa relating to TIF must be amended to include a category specific to alternate energy construction.

2. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes the Code of Iowa referencing slum/blight should be revised to reflect 21st century terminology.
3. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes all TIF projects, including urban renewal projects, should sunset in at most 20 years. The League suggests modifying the law to require local authorizing entities a maximum of 50 percent of the school district tax increment for the duration of the project.
4. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes language that allows a 20-year duration for economic development within a TIF district should be amended to require that TIF districts decertify upon project completion. The League further believes that any entity wishing to use TIF in the same area following a project completion must complete a new certification process in its entirety to proceed with a proposal.
5. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes structuring TIF debt is important, and the Code of Iowa must be amended to include TIF debt in the calculation against the constitutional debt limit and must include language related to annual payment, as well as interest incurred against the debt.
6. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes state law for establishing a TIF district must be amended to require detailed communication, including specific plans and outcomes, identifying costs and an estimated return on the TIF investment, and estimating the impact on other taxing entities, to occur among all affected parties before the required three public hearings.
7. The League of Women Voters of Iowa believes that each TIF plan must identify an oversight procedure requiring the local authorizing entity to annually evaluate the effectiveness of TIF use, including costs, at the local level. The League further believes members of the affected communities must be included in the evaluation procedural process to ensure transparency.

Justice Positions

Promote fair treatment by guaranteeing the rights of all individuals.

Rehabilitation of Alcoholic and Other Drug Addicted Offenders (1986, 1988, 2003)

The League of Women Voters Iowa recognizes there is a difference of opinion as to the definition, cause, and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse; and that success of treatment for addictions is limited, even with a willing client in a supportive environment.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports:

- Measures which in addition to protecting the community, seek to rehabilitate addicted offenders;
- Separate housing for addicted offenders;
- Licensed addiction treatment programs that:
 - Recognize uniform definitions of success and a means of measuring it;
 - Are monitored and reviewed periodically for positive results and cost effectiveness;
 - Are improved whenever new verifiable data are obtained that indicate need for change.

As an immediate step toward the accomplishment of these goals, the League recommends the formation of a task force made up of service providers, corrections professionals, and the public to discuss and reach

agreement on methods of treatment, definition of success, means of measuring success, cost accountability, and methods of licensing and monitoring treatment programs for alcohol and other drug offenders.

Capital Punishment (1997)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa opposes capital punishment and its reinstatement in Iowa.

- There is no conclusive evidence that capital punishment is a deterrent. There does not seem to be a correlation between the murder rate and the death penalty in those states which have it.
- The death penalty has a disproportionate impact on minorities and the poor and is enforced with prejudice.
- The death penalty is irreversible, and innocent people are known to have been executed in the past.
- The costs of execution are higher than those of life imprisonment without parole.
- Life imprisonment without parole is a sufficiently harsh sentence.
- It is morally untenable for the state to take a life. Institutionalized killing is inhumane and contributes to a climate of violence.

In the event capital punishment becomes law in Iowa:

- There should be a minimum age of 21 at which an offender is subject to the death penalty.
- Insanity and mental retardation should be considered mitigating factors.
- Special provisions should be made for the appointment of competent counsel in capital cases.
- There should be no restrictions placed on access to the appeals process.
- Guarantees should be in place to counteract the effects of prejudice to provide for automatic review of evidence and trial procedures, and to ensure the penalty is appropriate for the offense.

Juvenile Justice and The Welfare of Juveniles (1975, 1976, 1979, 1983, 1989, 1990)

LWVIA supports a community approach to the prevention of juvenile delinquent behavior by advocating the use of public and private resources to:

- Encourage the development of healthy and nurturing families.
- Assure safety for children in their communities.
- Facilitate the positive attachment of children to their families and their schools/education.
- Encourage children in the formation of positive peer relations.
- Reward children's healthy lifestyle choices.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a community response to juvenile delinquent behavior that advocates the use of public and private resources to:

- Establish and adequately fund a wide variety of treatment options to address children's underlying or contributing problems such as alcoholism, drug addiction, suicidal tendencies, illiteracy, etc.
- Encourage coordination among treatment agencies.
- Incorporate restorative justice principles whenever possible.

LWVIA supports a juvenile court system that incorporates the following principles:

- Retains juveniles charged with status offenses, but in a category separate from delinquency;
- Maintains the confidentiality of Child in Need of Assistance petitions and status offense records;
- Includes a requirement for special training for policy and court personnel in handling juvenile matters;
- Permits the establishment of family courts, peer courts, and community courts where feasible;
- Allows offenses other than felony crimes against a person to be expunged;
- Maintains a system of graduated responses to delinquent behavior based on number of prior offenses, severity of instant offense, and age at time of offense; and
- Incorporates restorative justice principles into every appropriate stage of the juvenile justice system.

Domestic Violence (2001)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa finds the need for several changes in providing legal and social support services for victims of domestic violence, including a review of existing penalties for perpetrators, and working for more consistent enforcement of present laws. The League also supports increased funding for services in counseling, shelter, and education for victims and their families. In addition, the League encourages businesses to develop programs to educate and support their employees who are involved in domestic violence, and also to assist employees in maintaining continuity in employment when at all possible. Finally, we urge that the Department of Public Safety be required to publish statewide statistics related to domestic violence, a task currently cited only as an option in the Code of Iowa.

In particular the League of Women Voters supports the following additions or changes in legal processes and penalties:

- Waiver of fees for filing for protective services;
- Increase of penalties for all domestic violence offenses and utilization and enforcement of maximum penalties;
- State-funded periodic training for judicial and enforcement personnel;
- Enforcement of penalties for batterers who do not complete required training programs; and
- Booking of domestic violence arrests as domestic violence, not as assault or disturbing the peace, to facilitate the correct compilation of statistics by the Department of Public Safety.

The League of Women Voters also supports continuous and adequate state funding for domestic violence services, including:

- Support of adequate shelter space;
- Educational services;
- Housing subsidies and financial support in the form of rental deposits when victims leave shelter;
- Counseling centering on the welfare of the victim(s), in safe locations, including counseling for affected children; and
- Support for local or area legal advocates to assist victims with legal processes as well as advocates to assist with general assistance in safety, protection, and planning for the future.

Sentencing and Corrections Justice Position (2005)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a justice system that is fair and protects the public safety. LWVIA believes that mandatory sentencing has had an adverse impact on Iowa's justice and corrections systems. This adverse impact could be reduced by providing greater flexibility for judges, Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Iowa Board of Parole to consider unique circumstances in criminal cases while sentencing standards set out in the Iowa Code remain applicable. The sentencing standards consider such factors as the number of offender's prior offenses, age of the offender, and severity of the crime.

The LWVIA supports an indeterminate sentencing structure. An indeterminate sentence is a sentence given by the judge that orders the maximum amount of time that is to be served. It permits the releasing authority such as the Iowa Board of Parole in consultation with the Iowa Department of Corrections to release the offender earlier if it is warranted. The LWVIA supports legislation that considers offenders with special needs. Some examples of offenders with special needs are the mentally retarded, mentally ill, geriatric inmates, and medically needy.

The LWVIA supports Iowa's system of community based corrections (CBCs) for offenders. CBCs should provide treatment, when appropriate, for offenders in the community while maintaining safeguards for the public. Iowa should maximize community corrections by providing adequate funding.

The LWVIA supports adopting sentencing legislation that is based on valid and reliable research. Such legislation should consider:

- Proportionality of all sentences to crimes committed
- Judicial discretion
- Budget constraints on the Iowa Department of Corrections
- Effectiveness of treatment and other programs for offenders

Selection of Judges

Historically, Iowa had selected judges through political elections with the most popular candidates winning. In the 1960s a number of groups, including the League of Women Voters of Iowa, began to look for a better way of selecting judges. In 1962 the people of Iowa were asked to ratify a constitutional amendment to change the judicial selection process. The present system, based on merit selection with periodic retention votes by the voters, was supported by the League and ratified by the voters in 1962. LWVIA continues to support this system.

Social Policy Positions

Mental Health Delivery System in Iowa (2009)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a coordinated and comprehensive state-funded mental health system that ensures convenient and equitable access to an established menu of mental health services for Iowans of all ages who need mental health services, and elimination of legal settlement.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports adequate funding of a comprehensive menu of services, including those that promote early detection and treatment of mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Appropriate levels of care should be available that meet people's needs in or near their home communities.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a mental health system that individualizes care to meet a person's specific mental health needs and focuses on the person's specific strengths and ability to recover.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a mental health system that is adequately funded and accountable to its consumers and communities by providing efficient, effective, and evidence-based programs and services.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports sustained funding to expand effective programs that divert mentally ill individuals from the criminal justice system. Examples include mental health crisis intervention teams, jail diversion programs, and mental health courts.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports eradicating the stigma of mental illness and treating persons with mental health needs with the same respect and treating their illnesses with the same urgency as persons with other health needs.

Natural Resource Positions

Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life.

Land Use (1973, 1982, 1987, 2002)

The League of Women Voters supports an integrated local, county, regional, and state land use policy which enhances our quality of life and provides for:

- Preservation of prime agricultural land and sensitive natural areas, e.g. prairies, woodlands, wetlands, as priorities;
- Soil and water conservation;
- Managed urban growth which protects agricultural land, fosters higher density urban development, encourages infill development and redevelopment in cities, and preserves natural areas;
- A statewide land capability inventory;
- A diversified transportation system; and
- Statewide distribution of natural areas, open spaces, and public recreation areas.

A state land use agency or other state entity should provide policy and guidelines for local and regional planning bodies, including guidelines for zoning decisions. Land use planning and enforcement should be adequately funded by a combination of state funds, fees, local taxation, and federal funds. State personnel should assist jurisdictions that cannot afford their own planners. The state agency should have power to initiate action and levy fines against violators if local jurisdictions fail to do so, and to hear appeals from local decisions.

Land use impact statements should be required for cases involving state funds, large developments above a designated size, land acquisitions by other government agencies, transportation and utility sites, and extractive industries. Citizens should have the right to sue to prevent the granting of variances. Public input at all levels of decision making is essential to sound land use planning.

The League supports the concept of publicly owned recreation trails on abandoned railroad rights-of-way. If present routes cannot be maintained, the League encourages governmental bodies to purchase abandoned rights-of-way for use as recreational trails, wildlife habitat, or for open spaces, thereby maintaining the capability for future transportation uses.

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF IOWA

AS AMENDED 2021

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Iowa, herein-after referred to as the LWVIA. The LWVIA is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose. The purposes of the LWVIA are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The LWVIA is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and it shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the IRS, including restrictions on expenditures for lobbying.

Section 2. Political Policy. The LWVIA shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Section 3. The State League adheres to the Policy of LWVUS. LWVIA is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households and communities and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVIA shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVIA shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

a. Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS;

(1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or may be state members-at-large;

(3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVIA shall be a president or co-presidents, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president or co-presidents and secretary shall be elected by the convention in odd-numbered years and shall serve two-year terms beginning July 1. The vice president and treasurer shall be elected by the council in even-numbered years and shall serve two-year terms beginning July 1.

Section 2. The President or Co-Presidents. The president or a co-president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors unless the president or co-presidents shall designate another person to preside. The president or co-presidents may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The president or a co-president shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president or co-presidents shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. A co-president shall, in the event of absence, resignation, disability, or death of the other co-president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the office.

Section 3. The Vice-President. The vice-president shall, in the event of absence, resignation, disability, or death of the president or co-presidents, possess all of the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that the vice-president is unable to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The vice-president shall perform such other duties as the president or co-presidents and board may designate.

Section 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of conventions and meetings of the board of directors, and shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president or co-presidents, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board, and shall perform such other duties as the board may designate.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer, or a duly appointed assistant, shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, and shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the board of directors. The treasurer shall present quarterly and annual statements to the board at its regular meetings and a year-to-date report to the convention or council. The treasurer shall be responsible for all state and federal tax compliances. The books of the treasurer shall be audited annually by a three-member committee, after the close of the fiscal year. The annual audit shall be presented the LWVIA board by August 15 and to the next convention.

Section 6. Past President. The outgoing president will stay on the Board of Directors one year past her/his designated presidential term to serve as past president to provide counsel to the sitting president and institutional memory to the Board.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVIA, five elected directors, and not more than six appointed directors. Of the five elected directors, three shall be elected by the convention in odd-numbered years and two shall be elected by the council in even-numbered years. All elected directors shall serve two-year terms beginning July 1. The elected members of the board of directors shall appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary, not exceeding six, to serve concurrently with the terms of office of the most recently elected directors. Each Local League should have representation on the LWVIA State Board.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this corporation unless that person is a member of the LWVIA.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy other than in the office of the president or co-presidents may be filled for the remainder of the term of office by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the convention. The board, or the executive committee between board meetings, shall approve expenditures monthly. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues and Member-at-Large Units and of finance programs requisite to further the work of the League as a whole. The board may create and designate an executive committee and other such special committees as it may deem necessary. The board shall retain the right to remove from office any board member who does not comply with League bylaws, policies, principles, and/or procedures.

The board of directors of LWVIA shall also form a board of directors of the LWVIA Education Fund that will meet when necessary to conduct the business of fund management, i.e. income from Education Fund donations and withdrawals for approved projects. Such meetings shall conform to Section 5 below, thus having notification and an agenda, with minutes taken.

Section 5. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president or co-presidents shall notify each member of the board of directors of all regular meetings giving the date, time and place, at least one week in advance. No action taken at any regular board meeting attended by three-fourths of the members of the board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received.

Section 6. Special Meetings. The president or co-presidents may call special meetings of the board of directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Members of the board

shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least six days prior to such a meeting. During a convention the president or co-presidents may, or upon the request of five members of the board, call a special meeting of the board by handing the members of the board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. Electronic Meetings. Board business may be conducted by e-mail, telephone, or other electronic means acceptable to the board.

ARTICLE VI

Recognition of Local Leagues, Member-at-Large Units, and Inter-League Organizations

Section 1. Local Leagues.

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues that have been recognized by the LWVUS.
- b. The board of directors of the LWVIA shall recommend to the national board that the national board recognize as a local League any group of members of the LWVUS in any community or geographic area within the state, providing the group fulfills requirements for local Leagues as adopted by the national convention.
- c. In the event of recurring failure of a local League to fulfill requirements, the board of directors of the LWVIA shall recommend to the national board that the national board withdraw recognition from the local League. Such action shall require a three-fourths vote of the board of LWVIA. All funds held by the local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVIA.

Section 2. Member-at-Large Units.

- a. Member-at-Large State Units are those recognized as such by the LWVIA.
- b. The board of directors of the LWVIA may organize such a unit in communities or geographical area where a local league is likely to be organized.
- c. The board of directors of the LWVIA shall withdraw recognition from a member-at-large unit for recurring failure to fulfill requirements for recognition as a local league. Such action shall require a three-fourths vote of the board. All funds held by a member-at-large unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVIA.

Section 3. Inter-League Organizations.

Local Leagues may create Inter-League Organizations in order to promote the purpose of the League and to take action on governmental matters of common concern. Inter-League Organizations may be created and continue to operate only with the consent of the national board.

ARTICLE VII

Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVIA shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. Budget. The board shall submit to the convention or council for adoption a budget for the year. This budget shall provide for the support of the LWVIA. A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League and member-at-large unit and all other members-at-large at least four weeks in advance of the convention or council.

Section 3. Financial Support.

- a. Each local League and member-at-large shall pay an annual per member payment as approved in the budget.
- b. Local League obligations will be based upon membership figures as of February 1 of the preceding fiscal year. The figures used to calculate this obligation will be the membership count report sent to the LWVIA treasurer in conjunction with the membership count report to the LWVUS in February of each year. Only upward adjustments are made to the February 1st count after that deadline. This money is to be remitted quarterly to the LWVIA treasurer.
- c. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, for each additional member after the first, and for students registered at an educational institution, the local League shall pay the per member payment at half the regular rate. The household shall receive one mailing.

Section 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for that purpose at least sixteen weeks in advance of the convention or council. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson.

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of merger or dissolution of the LWVIA for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of the LWVIA, shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVIA and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. (or the national LWVUS Education Fund itself) which is exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

Section 6. Education Fund. The LWVIA Board also acts as the LWVIA Education Fund Board.

ARTICLE VIII

Convention

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of the LWVIA shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. Meetings may be held electronically. The president or co-presidents shall send a first call for the convention to the presidents of the local Leagues and member-at-large units and to all other members-at-large not less than twelve weeks prior to the opening date of the convention fixed in said call. Thereafter the board of directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks. A final call for the convention shall be sent to the above-mentioned members at least four weeks before the convention.

Section 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of the following delegates:

- a. members chosen by local Leagues;
- b. members chosen by member-at-large units;
- c. members-at-large selected by the LWVIA board;
- d. past state presidents who are members of the LWVIA, and;
- e. members of the board of directors of the LWVIA

Section 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be a voting member of LWVIA. Each delegate representing a local League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment obligation. Each qualified delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Representation. The members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues and qualified member-at-large units in the state of Iowa shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows: The members in each local League or member-at-large unit shall be entitled to one delegate who shall be chosen by their members; the members in each local League or member-at-large unit having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 10 voting members or major fraction thereof. LWVIA members-at-large selected as delegates by the LWVIA board may vote. The record with the LWVIA treasurer of paid voting members as of February 1 shall determine the official membership count for this purpose.

Section 5. Powers. The convention shall consider and authorize a program for action, shall elect the president or co-presidents, secretary, and three directors, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Section 6. Quorum. Twenty-five voting delegates other than the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the convention, provided that there is representation from at least two-thirds of the local Leagues.

ARTICLE IX

Council

Section 1. Date, Composition, and Purpose. A meeting of the LWVIA council shall be held in the interim year between conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding convention. Meetings may be held electronically. The council shall be composed of two delegates from each local League and MAL unit and the board of directors of the LWVIA. . Two LWVIA members-at-large who attend council may be designated by the LWVIA board to vote. The council shall elect the vice president, treasurer, and two directors, give guidance to the board of directors on program and methods of work, adopt a budget for the ensuing year, transact other business presented by the board, and offer training to attendees. The council agenda must be sent to local Leagues, members-at-large and member-at-large units at least four weeks in advance of council.

Section 2. Powers. In the event of an emergency, the council is authorized to change the program provided:

- 1) notice of proposed changes has been sent to the presidents of local Leagues, members-at-large, and member-at-large units at least four weeks in advance of the council meeting; and,
- 2) the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Quorum. A majority of eligible local league delegates and a majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at council.

ARTICLE X

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of at least three and not more than five members. If deemed necessary, the additional two members will be appointed by the board acting on the request of the nominating committee. The chair and one member, who shall not be members of the board of directors, shall be elected by the convention to serve two-year terms beginning July 1. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. After July 1, the board of directors shall appoint one of its members to the nominating committee. Any vacancy occurring in the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the chairperson and one member of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to the local leagues and member-at-large units and all other members-at-large four weeks before the date of the convention or council. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention or council. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Section 3. Election. The election shall be by ballot except that when there is but one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of qualified voters present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI

Program

Section 1. Principles. The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2. Program. The program of the LWVIA shall consist of:

- a. action to implement the Principles.
- b. those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Program Selection. The convention shall select the governmental issues for concerted study and action using the following procedures:

- a. local League boards may make recommendations to the board of directors at least twelve weeks prior to the convention.
- b. the board of directors shall consider the recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the local Leagues, member-at-large units and all of the members-at-large at least four weeks prior to the convention.
- c. any recommendation for the program submitted to the board of directors, but not proposed by the board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote.
- d. a three-fifths vote is required for adoption of program.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVIA only when authorized to do so by the board of directors of the LWVIA.

Section 5. Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the board of directors of the LWVIA. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVIA.

ARTICLE XII

National Convention and Council

Section 1. National Convention. The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates and alternates to that convention in the number allowed the LWVIA under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. National Council. The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates and alternates to such council in the number allowed the LWVIA under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

ARTICLE XIII

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any convention, using the following procedures:

- a. proposals for change shall be submitted by any local League or member-at-large unit to the board of directors at least twelve weeks prior to the convention.
- b. all such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the board shall be sent to local Leagues and member-at-large units and all other members-at-large at least four weeks prior to the convention.

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